

Bulletin No. 7 of 1929.

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Preliminary Report by the Government Statist on the Estimated Wool
Production, 1928-29.

I. NUMBER OF SHEEP. Statistics are now being collected as to the strength of flocks as at December 31st 1928 but pending the results of the actual count and in order to meet the demands of those interested for early particulars of the Wool Industry, the Government Statist has made an estimate of the numbers based on fairly reliable details of lambing, slaughtering and interstate movement of Sheep during the year. He estimates that there were in the State on or about December 31st, 1928, 7,200,000, a decrease of 342,345. This estimate is arrived at as follows:-

Actual Count, December 1927.	7,542,345
Lambs marked year 1928 (partly estimated)	<u>1,540,000</u>
	9,082,345
LESS Net Exports Year 1928	28,897
Slaughterings Year 1928 (partly estimated)	1,250,000
Mortality Losses 1928 Estimated	<u>600,000</u>
	<u>1,878,897</u>
ESTIMATED TOTAL SHEEP AT DECEMBER 31ST, 1928	<u>7,203,448</u>
	<u>SAY 7,200,000</u>

II. WOOL-CLIP .

	<u>Estimated</u> <u>1928-29</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>1927-28</u>
Sheep and Lambs Shorn	7,325,000	7,800,922
Wool-Clip in grease including crutchings (Sheep and Lambs) lbs.	64,250,000	67,570,937
Average weight fleece (Sheep and Lambs)	8.77	8.66

The previous year the State's wool-clip (1927-28) yielded from 7,800,922 sheep and lambs 67,570,937 lbs. averaging 8.66 lbs. The clip for 1928-29 now being marketed is estimated to yield 64,250,000 lbs. a decrease in the grease of 3,320,937 lbs. Less sheep were shorn but the weight of fleece weighed 0.11 lbs. more than the previous year.

III. INTERSTATE MOVEMENT OF WOOL. Considerable quantities of Wool from New South Wales, Victoria and some from Western Australia are sent to Adelaide for sale and shipment and a good quantity of the South-Eastern clip is sent from this State to Victoria for sale and shipment. A monthly record is kept of this Interstate Trade and from these details the Net Imports for the season are estimated at 5,500,000 lbs. in the grease.

IV. GRAND TOTAL WOOL- CLIP FOR SALE AND SHIPMENT. Adding the net Interstate Imports, 5,500,000 lbs. to the Wool-Clip of the State, 64,250,000 lbs., a grand total of 69,750,000 lbs. in the grease is estimated as available for Adelaide sales and ultimate shipment or local use. The details may be set forth as follows:-

<u>SEASON 1928-29.</u>		lbs.
Estimated State Wool-Clip in the Grease		64,250,000
Imported from States		<u>15,500,000</u>
	Total	79,750,000
Less Exports to States		<u>10,000,000</u>
Grand Total Available Adelaide		<u>69,750,000</u>

V. OVERSEA EXPORTS. The Seasonal Exports (July 1928 to February 1929) of Wool to Oversea Countries was equivalent to 54,898,863 lbs. in grease, the value for greasy and scoured combined being entered as £3,370,791. The average per lb. greasy was 15.02d per lb. for the eight months against 17.36d per lb. for the previous season. From this it appears that the results of the sales in Adelaide to date are averaging 13½% less than the previous season.

VI. CONCLUSION. As nearly 80% of the estimated available wool has now been sold in Adelaide and exported, it is possible to make a reasonable estimate of the probable value of the whole. It may be anticipated that the values to date will be fairly well maintained and on that assumption it is estimated that the total South Australian clip of 64,250,000 lbs. in the grease will realise approximately £4,000,000 or £900,000 less than the clip for the previous year. In addition to this the Wool on Sheepskins exported and fellmongered must be taken into account. Last Season this was estimated at £780,000 making a grand total value of £5,668,757 for 1927-28. In view of the tendency to heavier slaughterings but decreased market values for wool, £700,000 should be a safe estimate on this account for 1928-29. This gives an estimated total for the Season 1928-29 of £4,700,000 against £5,668,756 for the Season 1927-28 as the value of wool clip, wool on skins, and fellmongered, a decrease of £968,756.

VII. SUMMARY OF STATE'S WOOL PRODUCTION IN THE GREASE.

Season ended June 30th	Aver. weight fleece lbs.	Wool Production and Value				Average per lb. greasy d.
		Shorn and Crutchings lbs.	On Skins and Fellmongered lbs.	Grand Total lbs.	Estimated Value £	
1924	8.37	49,964,235	7,917,701	57,881,936	5,305,844	22.00
1925	8.80	55,642,383	6,796,570	62,438,953	5,975,928	22.97
1926	8.73	60,380,584	8,626,682	69,007,266	4,295,702	14.94
1927	8.67	63,078,242	9,286,958	72,365,200	4,468,551	14.82
1928	8.66	67,570,937	10,798,981	78,369,818	5,668,757	17.36
x1929	8.77	64,250,000	11,000,000	75,250,000	4,700,000	15.02

x 1928-29 is estimated, subject to final revision.

W.L. JOHNSTON,

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ADELAIDE,
27th March, 1929.

GOVERNMENT STATIST &
REG. GEN. OF B.D. & M.